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Paul Sewick and Beth Delaney
11004 N Biltmore Drive #3207
Phoenix, AZ 85029-5353

Dr. Michael Friedman
Lead Deputy Commissioner
Federal Food and Drug Administration
5600 Fishers Lane
Rockville, MD 20857

Dr. Friedman:

Requiring that pharmaceutical companies test their products on animals does NOT ensure the safety of the public. For this reason, we respectfully demand that the FDA eliminate this requirement from the decades-old 1938 Federal Food, Drug, and Cosmetic Act. As consumers, not only do we feel no safer if a company tests drugs on animals-it makes us feel LESS safe! No amount of animal testing will ever predict a human reaction to any substance. Consider the example of thalidomide, which was **thoroughly** tested on animals-and then caused over 10,000 very serious birth defects in humans. Animals and humans are just too **different** from each other, and react to drugs in very different ways. In the name of all those who continue to die from drugs tested "safe" through totally worthless animal experiments, you must stop requiring these veterinary tests!

Remember: if animal testing is so reliable, then why is it that each year the FDA is forced to pull off the shelves many pharmaceutical drugs that it had previously found "safe"?

Response requested.

Yours Very Truly,


Paul Sewick and Beth Delaney

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EXECUTIVE SECRETARIAT

1100 N BILTMORE DRW# #3207
PHOENIX AZ 85029-S3S3



DR MICHAEL FRIEDMAN
LEAD DEPUTY COMMISSIONER
FEDERAL FOOD AND DRUG ADMINISTRATION
5600 FISHERS LANE
ROCKVILLE MD 20857

